

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action, dated June 17, 2005 ("Office Action"). Claims 3, 6, and 10 have been amended and claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been canceled. Claims 3 and 6-20 remain pending.

Objections

Examiner objected to claim 3 for being dependent on a rejected claim. Examiner noted that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and upon the filing of a terminal disclaimer.

Applicants have responded as Examiner suggested, filing a terminal disclaimer herewith and amending claim 3 so that it is in independent form.

Rejections Under §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-2 and 4-20 were rejected by Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly not enabling a method of diagnosing or predicting susceptibility to any autoimmune disease associated with a 2-2-4 haplotype at Notch 4, HSP70-HOM and D6S273 by detecting the presence of the 2-2-4 haplotype, or a method of diagnosis or predicting susceptibility to Crohn's disease by detecting a disease associated haplotype or an allele associated with the 2-2-4 haplotype.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-2 and 4-20, making Examiner's rejection moot.

Claims 13-20 were rejected by Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Examiner asserted that methods of diagnosis or predicting susceptibility to Crohn's disease by detecting a disease associated haplotype associated or an allele associated with the 2-2-4 haplotype is not sufficiently described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants have canceled claims 13-20, making Examiner's rejection moot.

Double Patenting

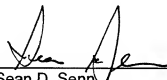
Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-12 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,176.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-2 and 5-12, thus making the double patenting rejection moot for those claims. Applicants have also filed a terminal disclaimer, thus addressing Examiner's double patenting rejection for claim 3.

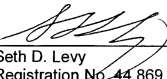
All of the claims remaining in the application are now believed to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (213) 633-6800.

Respectfully submitted,
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